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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/781,221	02/18/2004	Xi Xian Niu	CNT Battery	1935
23616	7590	09/14/2004	EXAMINER	
LAW OFFICES OF CLEMENT CHENG 17220 NEWHOPE STREET #127 FOUNTAIN VALLEY, CA 92708			CREPEAU, JONATHAN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1746	
DATE MAILED: 09/14/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/781,221

Applicant(s)

NIU, XI XIAN

Examiner

Jonathan S. Crepeau

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2 and 4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 February 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the trough, cap, and spring coil of claim 1 and the gap of claim 3 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabata et al (U.S. Patent 6,713,039) in view of Naskali (U.S. Patent 6,346,346) in view of Ikeda et al (U.S. Patent 5,879,836).

Tabata et al. is directed to a lithium secondary battery. The battery is of the button-cell type and comprises a cap (1), trough (7) and flat spring (8) that applies pressure to the electrode assembly. The electrode assembly comprises positive and negative current collectors (2, 9), and a separator (5).

While Tabata et al. do not expressly teach that the spring is in the shape of a coil, as recited in claim 1, such modification of the spring of Tabata et al. would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Generally, changes in shape are not considered to impart a patentable distinction unless a new or unexpected result is achieved. See MPEP §2144.04. As such, the “coil” shape recited in claim 1 is not considered to distinguish over the reference.

Tabata et al. further do not teach that the anode current collector is made of aluminum and that the cathode current collector is made of copper, as recited in claim 1.

Naskali is directed to a lithium polymer battery. In column 3, line 46, the reference teaches a copper cathode substrate and an aluminum anode substrate.

Therefore, the artisan would have been motivated to use these materials in the current collectors of Tabata et al. because Naskali discloses that these materials are “preferabl[e].” As such, these limitations are also not considered to distinguish over the references.

Tabata et al. further do not teach that each of the electrodes contain active carbon fiber as recited in claim 1, or that the fiber diameter is 20-80 nm and that the length is 200-300 nm.

Ikeda et al. is also directed to a lithium battery. In the abstract, the reference teaches that both electrodes contain carbon nanofibers having a diameter of 3.5-75 nm.

Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the artisan would be motivated to use the carbon nanofibers of Ikeda et al. in the electrodes of Tabata et al. A number of advantages of using the carbon nanofibers are listed at column 3, line 33 of Tabata et al. As such, the artisan would be motivated to use these fibers in the electrodes of Tabata et al. It is noted that the diameter range disclosed by Ikeda et al. overlaps with the claimed range, thus rendering the latter obvious. Furthermore, Ikeda et al. disclose at column 6, line 12 that the aspect ratio of the carbon fibers should ordinarily be greater than 5. This would also provide sufficient guidance to render Applicant’s claimed length range obvious.

Regarding the limitation that the nanofiber layers are “spray-coated” onto the respective current collectors, this is a process limitation that is not seen to further limit the structure of the claimed battery. As such, the limitation is given little patentable weight. See MPEP §2113.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

5. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 3 recites that a gap is located between each set of the substrate plate and its separation membrane, thereby forming a capacitor-like functionality. None of the references of record teach or fairly suggest such a gap. As such, claim 3 contains allowable subject matter.

Conclusion

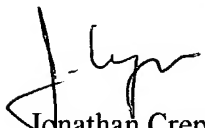
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Crepeau whose telephone number is (571) 272-1299. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Barr, can be reached at (571) 272-1414. The phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-1700. Documents may be faxed to the central fax server at (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

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applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jonathan Crepeau
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1746
September 13, 2004